



2013
Kentucky Environmental
Excellence Awards

&
2013 Energy Leaderships
Awards

Environmental Excellence Award Recipients

The 2013 KY EXCEL Champion Award is Kentucky American Water.

KY EXCEL is the Commonwealth's voluntary environmental leadership program. This award is provided to the program member that has shown leadership in promoting positive environmental behaviors. A few of Kentucky American Water's accomplishments include performing an extensive energy audit of its facilities, resulting in an expenditure of more than \$70,000 to install motion sensors and replace lighting fixtures with energy-efficient versions. The company is involved in environmental education about water conservation and recycling, participating in stream bank restorations, Adopt-a-Highway, storm water mitigation, and maintaining a wildlife friendly property.

The **Community Environmental Luminary Award** highlights achievements in community-based environmental education and outreach. This year's winner is **Bluegrass Greensource**, formerly known as Bluegrass PRIDE, located in Lexington. The organization provides environmental outreach to 18 counties, and organized 3,000 environmental presentations with an approximate 80,000 student interactions. Outreach educators mentored more than 2,500 school administrators and teachers, taking them to coal mines and solar farms to help them teach about

energy. They have demonstrated testing the water quality of streams; conducted waste analyses -- saving a school system \$50,000 in waste hauling costs -- and assisted in removing 150,000 bags of trash from roads and streams.

The **Resource Caretaker Award** recognizes efforts to conserve Kentucky's resources. This year's award recipient is **the University of Louisville**.

The university created a strategic plan to focus on creative and responsible stewardship. This commitment led to reclaiming more than 200 acres in grayfield/brownfield areas around the Belknap Campus, resulting in being awarded the national Phoenix Award for brownfield reclamation. The university reduced energy consumption by \$4.6 million annually, constructed or renovated six major capital projects at the LEED Gold or Silver levels and partnered with local food vendors and producers to utilize local food sources.

The last awards are the **Environmental Pacesetter Awards**. Three winners are selected for outstanding environmental achievements. The award is broken into three categories: Individual or Organization, Small Business and Large Business.

The **Environmental Pacesetter Award for an Individual or Organization** is **Chris Tyler** of Lexington. As a member of the Kentucky Chapter of the United States Green Building Council, Chris Tyler has served as the Advocacy Chair, Green Schools Chair and a board member. He was recently voted Board Chair by his peers. His leadership in these roles demonstrated his effectiveness, commitment to and passion for the organization's mission. During Chris's chairmanship and Leadership, Ky. USGBC was successful in establishing the first bipartisan Green Schools Caucus in Kentucky, providing the opportunity to educate legislators,

school boards, PTA groups and others about the importance of green schools for children.

The **Environmental Pacesetter Award for a Small Business** goes to **Pull-A-Part** of Louisville. Pull-A-Part has transformed what was once perceived as the junkyard into a sustainable recycling business. The company has made exceptional commitments to resource conservation, waste reduction and pollution prevention, working to set the standard of excellence in handling and recycling end-of-life vehicles. To protect the environment, Pull-A-Part utilizes proper materials' management by minimizing solid waste by removing and recycling all fluids and other potential contaminants, maximizing reuse of all possible parts and materials and maximizing recycling of the rest of the vehicle to decrease the residue disposed of by the automobile shredder.

The final **Environmental Pacesetter Award for a Large Business** is awarded to **SCA Americas** of Bowling Green. SCA Americas develops and produces personal care products, tissue, publication papers and solid-wood products. The facility designed, implemented and currently operates its site under an Environmental, Health and Safety Management System that conforms to ISO 14001:2004. The company has implemented a zero landfill program, diverting more than seven million pounds of waste in 2012. The company has promoted the benefits of recycling to employees and the community, awarding environmental education grants to schools. SCA partnered with Western Kentucky University on two community outreach activities, distributing 1,000 sustainable tailgating kits at a football game.

Energy Leadership Awards

The Energy Leadership Awards, sponsored by the Department for Energy Development and Independence, recognize leaders in the Kentucky energy field who have made significant contributions by promoting and utilizing energy efficiency and alternative energy sources as a way to achieve their sustainability goals and to cut costs.

One recipient of the 2013 award is **The Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy** - an agency that provides a direct link between the governor and one of the state's most important industries: Kentucky Agriculture. In an effort to assist farmers to become more energy efficient, the agency launched the On-Farm Efficiency program, initially funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Under this program, funding supported 164 on-farm energy efficiency projects throughout the state and saved approximately \$2 million in energy costs through early 2012. Energy efficiency projects were implemented in the poultry industry, dairy operations, grain production and greenhouse operations and included a small number of solar energy projects. The success of the Recovery Act prompted the Agricultural Development Board to support additional energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. GOAP secured funding for the continuation of the program from state resources and funds through an environmental mitigation grant program. Today, over 200 additional projects -- including 119 solar energy projects -- are underway on farms throughout Kentucky.

The second Energy Leadership Award goes to **Republic Conduit**. Republic manufactures and distributes electrical conduit -steel tubing used to encase wires in commercial or industrial construction. This Louisville manufacturing facility has made waste and energy reduction projects a priority, and has demonstrated its environmental leadership with more than 60 percent of the corporate capital budget dedicated to environmental projects. In 2011, the company was recognized with Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center's (KPPC) Environmental Sustainability Award. Energy reduction projects included:

- improving the wastewater treatment system
- recycling
- installing mechanical upgrades and controls; and implementing shut-down procedures.

These changes contributed to nearly a 10 percent reduction in annual electric usage, even with higher production volumes.

Republic Conduit has also partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy's "Better Buildings, Better Plants" national program and Kentucky's "Save Energy Now" initiative. As testimony to its success, Republic Conduit served as a training facility for the federal energy department's Advanced Manufacturing Office and the U. S. Council for Energy-Efficient Manufacturing, and presented its energy management strategies at the 2013 Kentucky Association of Manufacturers Energy Conference.